

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W

-----120402Z 011131 /66

R 111548Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2291
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0673

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, US, NU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN CRITICISM OF SOMOZA: LETTER TO CARTER

REF: (A) MANAGUA 482, (B) MANAGUA 3055 (NOTAL, MANAGUA 2560 (NOTAL)

1. EMB HAS OBTAINED COPY OF LETTER FROM FOREIGN INTELLECTUALS (REFTEL A) CRITICIZING THE SOMOZA REGIME. AS EXPECTED, IT IS LARGELY A REHASH OF CARDENAL TESTIMONY AND REFERS TO THAT TESTIMONY. THE LETTER DESCRIBES THE RESPONSE OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITNESSES TO CARDENAL TESTIMONY AS "DIRECTED AT ALLEGING THE ABSOLUTE INNOCENCE OF THE SOMOZA FAMILY REGIME; THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ASSUMED THE IRRITATING ROLE OF DEFENSE LAWYER OF A TYRANT.

2. IN ITS PAST REPORTING ON ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO VERIFY CHARGES, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, AND PRESENT AN ACCURATE AND BALANCED ASSESSMENT OF PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY HAS MADE AN EFFORT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH REGARD TO MISREPRESENTATIONS AND DISTORTIONS BY CARDENAL
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AND OTHERS REGARDING U.S. PROGRAMS IN NICARAGUA. IN PARTICULAR, REFTTEL B INDICATES NUMEROUS FACTUAL ERRORS IN CARDENAL TESTIMONY WHICH ARE REPEATED OR REFLECTED IN THE CHARGES IN THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. THE ACCUSATIONS IN THE LETTER THAT STATE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY HAVE ACTED AS "DEFENSE LAWYERS OF THE TYRANT" AND ARE PREOCCUPIED

WITH STRENGTHENING THE SOMOZA REGIME ARE MALICIOUS AND FALSE.
(SEE EMBASSY ANALYSIS PREPARED AT TIME OF FRASER HEARINGS, REFTEL C.)
MOREOVER, IT IS CURRENTLY PERCEIVED TO BE FALSE BY OPPOSITION
LEADERS EXCEPT FOR THE EXTREME ANTI-U.S. AND RADICAL ANTI-SOMOZA

ELEMENTS, INCLUDING THE FSLN. THIS ACCUSATION IS PARTICULARLY
IRONIC IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NUMBER OF COMMENTS REACHING THE
EMBASSY IN RECENT MONTHS INDICATE THAT BOTH PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND
OPPOSITION LEADERS SHARE THE PERCEPTION THAT AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY
IN GENERAL ARE MUCH LESS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE GON THAN IN
THE PAST. IF EMBASSY APPEARED TO BE DEFENDING THE SOMOZA REGIME,
WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ONSTRUCTIVE AND CORDIAL
CONTACTS AND RELATIONS WE HAVE WITH A WIDE SPECTURM OF REGIME'S
POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

4. SIGNATORIES OF LETTER ARE AS REPORTED REFTEL A INCLUDING
NICARAGUAN JOSE CORONEL UTRECHA, WHO LIVES IN COSTA RICA, PLUS
THE FOLLOWING: ROGELIA SINAN, PANAMA; JUAN DE LA CABADA, MEXICAN
WRITER. EMB WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BRIEF BIO INFORMATION ON
SIGNATORIES.
THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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